

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A crimping tool for fastening a female connector to the bare end of an insulated conductor, comprising:

- (a) a housing (1) containing a chamber defined between a pair of side walls, a first one of said side walls containing a first opening through which the conductor bare end is introduced into said chamber;
- (b) crimping means arranged in said chamber for fastening a female connector to the conductor bare end, including:
 - (1) a cylindrical crimping drum (8) arranged in said chamber for rotation about a given axis parallel with said first wall opening, said crimping drum having at one end an axial bearing shaft (10) that extends through a second wall opening (30) contained in the opposite second side wall of said housing, the peripheral surface of said drum being adjacent said wall opening and supporting thereon a plurality of circumferentially spaced dies of different types or sizes, said crimping drum being rotatable about said bearing shaft between a plurality of crimping positions in which said dies are arranged opposite said wall opening, respectively;
 - (2) a movable crimping member (M) arranged in said chamber adjacent said first wall opening for cooperation with a given die in the crimping position adjacent said first wall opening, thereby to crimp and fasten a connector supported by said die onto said bare conductor; and
 - (3) handle means (2, 3) supported by said housing for operating said crimping member between crimping and withdrawn positions relative to said given die;

- (c) a die selection wheel (4) non-rotatably connected with said bearing shaft on the opposite side of said second wall from said crimping drum; and
 - (d) first retaining means (15,17) releasably connecting said die selection wheel with said housing, thereby to maintain said crimping drum in said given crimping position.
- 2. A crimping tool as defined in claim 1, and further including:
 - (e) second retaining means (18,19) for releasably connecting said crimping drum with said first housing side wall.
- 3. A crimping tool as defined in claim 2, wherein said crimping drum is formed from metal.
- 4. A crimping tool as defined in claim 3, wherein said crimping drum is formed from steel by the use of a metal injection molding process.
- 5. A crimping tool as defined in claim 1, wherein said die selecting wheel (4) is axially displaceable on said crimping drum shaft (10) between locked and released positions relative to said housing.
- 6. A crimping tool as defined in claim 5, and further including first spring means (13) biasing said die selection wheel toward said locked position.
- 7. A crimping tool as defined in claim 1, wherein said first retaining means includes retaining means on said die selection wheel (17) and on said housing (15) for locking said die selection wheel against angular displacement when said die selection wheel is in said locked position.

8. A crimping tool as defined in claim 7, wherein said retaining means includes a plurality of radially-outwardly-extending circumferentially-spaced retaining lugs (17) carried by said die selecting wheel for engagement with corresponding retaining lugs (15) on said housing.

9. A crimping tool as defined in claim 8, wherein said housing retaining lugs include undercut portions (16) that are operable, following axial displacement of said selection wheel toward said released position, to permit the passage of the corresponding retaining lugs on said die selection wheel during angular adjustment of said die selection wheel relative to said housing.

10. A crimping tool as defined in claim 9, wherein said crimping drum is arranged for axial displacement in the direction of said second housing wall toward a disengaged position in which the retaining lugs (17) on said die selection wheel are disengaged from the corresponding lugs (15) on said housing, thereby to permit angular adjustment of said crimping drum between said crimping positions.

11. A crimping tool as defined in claim 1, and further including indicia means (5) arranged on the periphery of said die selecting wheel for indicating that one of said dies that is arranged opposite said first opening at any given time.

12. A crimping tool as defined in claim 11, wherein said indicia means is arranged at a visible location relative to said housing.

13. A crimping tool as defined in claim 8, wherein the number of retaining lugs on said die selecting wheel corresponds with the number of dies carried by said crimping drum.

14. A crimping tool as defined in claim 2, wherein said second retaining means comprises an axially displaceable locking knob (18) connected with said first wall, said locking knob including at one end adjacent said crimping drum a plurality of radially outwardly directed spring clip elements that extend within corresponding locking recesses (19) contained in the adjacent end of said crimping drum.

15. A crimping tool as defined in claim 14, wherein a plurality of said locking recesses are arranged adjacent each of said dies that are carried by said crimping drum.

16. A crimping tool as defined in claim 14, wherein said locking knob and said spring clip elements are formed integrally from a resilient synthetic plastic material.

17. A crimping tool as defined in claim 2, wherein said crimping drum is axially displaceable between a locked position adjacent said first housing wall and an unlocked position spaced from said first housing wall, said second retaining means being operable only when said crimping drum is in said locked position.

18. A crimping tool as defined in claim 17, and further including second spring means (12) biasing said crimping drum axially in the direction of said first wall toward said locked position.